

Abstract

Ceramics comprising (i) at least one of Nb_2O_5 or Ta_2O_5 and (ii) at least two of (a) Al_2O_3 , (b) Y_2O_3 , or (c) at least one of ZrO_2 or HfO_2 . Embodiments of ceramics according to the present invention can be made, formed as, or converted into optical waveguides,
5 glass beads, articles (e.g., plates), fibers, particles (e.g., abrasive particles), and thin coatings.